

Insight Drivers say politics put Jimmy away

At truckstops,
the rank and file
sense he's dead

By Jeffery Sheler
United Press International

William Liby, 59, stood next to his rig parked near the New York City waterfront.

He thought a moment and lifted a bulging, tattooed arm to brush a hand over his white, crew-cut hair.

"Jimmy's gotta be dead," he said. "Whoever took him gotta know the kind of man he is. They know if he ever got loose, he's gonna come lookin'."

At the dusty loading docks and the sleazy midnight diners where truck drivers briefly pause, there runs that same gut feeling — James R. Hoffa, the "little fellow" who once bareknuckled his way to the top of the rough-neck Teamsters Union, will never be seen again.

After searching the nation for more than two weeks, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies say they have no clue as to Hoffa's whereabouts. All they know for sure is that he's gone.

"In my opinion, he's dead. Why it happened you can only surmise," Michael Gaffney, a truck dispatcher from San Francisco, said. "It was some type of power struggle."

John McCallister, of Atlanta, Ga., a truck driver for eight years, said he believes someone wanted to get rid of Hoffa because "they were getting scared. They wanted him out of the way. So they sunk him to the bottom of the river."

Robert Hanks, of Independence, agreed. "Somebody put him in the drink — the underground," he said at a central Illinois truck stop. "He was ready to step back in the saddle."

"He's either dead or in self-exile waiting for the time to come out and blow the whistle — I'd almost swear to it," a 15-year Teamster member from Los Angeles, who asked not to be identified, said. "It's not a kidnap. He's too hot for ransom. Either he'll show up or they'll never find his body."

Although no one ventured to guess who the mysterious "they" responsible for Hoffa's disappearance might be, several drivers theorized it was related either to an intra-union power struggle or to some secret Mafia plot.

"Labor was Hoffa's life, which would lead you to believe it is connected with union activities," a member of St. Louis Teamsters Local 618 said.

Speaking as "one Teamster and a free man," L.B. Day, head of the Teamsters carnery local in Salem, Ore., said, "I think it's a social mess and a disgrace."

"I'm disgusted with the whole mess. I think there are connections with the underworld and so forth that ought to be cleaned up, post haste."

Many drivers said they believe Hoffa would come out on top in an election challenge against Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons.

"Hoffa is the type of person everyone knows," one West Coast driver said. "They know what he was. He worked for the men. With Fitz, you have to go through 50,000 people. He's for the big man — not for the worker."

Ron Clement, of Effingham, Ill., had a similar complaint. "We had somebody to talk to when Jimmy was in there," Clement said. "I wrote Fitzsimmons a letter last September and I got an answer in February from some guy in Chicago."

Manford Bear, 59, of Lima, Ohio, said although Hoffa has his bad points, he'd vote for him in a minute and thinks most rank-and-file drivers would do the same.

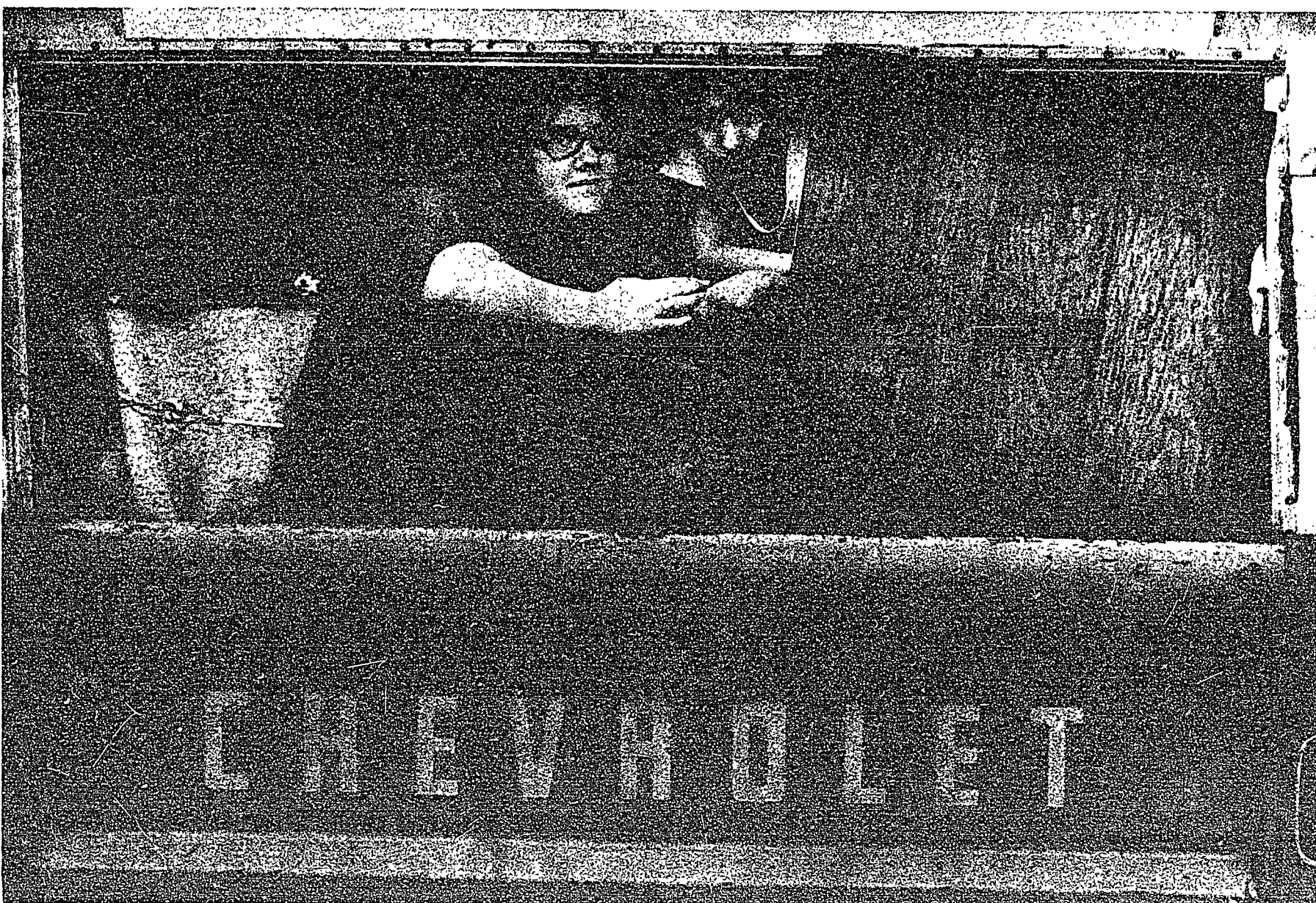
"He's done a lot of harm — a lot of things that's wrong. But he's helped us," Bear said.

Columbia Missourian

67th Year — No. 278

Good Morning! It's Friday, August 15, 1975

16 Pages — 15 Cents



Almost there

Elaine Mims, 15, and her 10-year-old cousin, Glenn Allen Yarbrough, arrived in Columbia Wednesday morning after a 480 kilometer (300 mile) drive from Richland. Their families intend to

live here. They said the ride with their five other cousins was a bit cramped, but they were more concerned about what school they would attend Aug. 25. (Missourian photo by Joany Carlin)

Ford to lift oil control, tariff

VAIL, Colo. (UPI) — President Ford has made final decisions to veto a six-month extension of oil price controls and to remove the \$2 a barrel tariff on imported oil, informed sources said Thursday.

Ford met for 50 minutes with Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, at his Vail vacation home.

Afterward, press secretary Ron Nessen told reporters Ford "had made his final decision" on whether to veto a measure passed by Congress that

would extend oil price controls six months beyond their present expiration date of Aug. 31.

Other sources confirmed the President's decision was to veto the bill.

Democratic congressional leaders have warned that permitting the price ceiling to lapse will mean an overnight doubling of the price of 60 per cent of the nation's domestic oil, bringing on sharply higher gasoline and fuel oil prices that will slow economic recovery and renew inflation.

Ford consistently has said he expected to veto the extension legislation

because something must be done now to foster fuel conservation — his approach is to reduce demand with higher prices — and Congress has failed to act.

Ford's experts say refined fuel products will increase no more than 6 cents a gallon in price as a result of decontrol.

Nessen had hinted at the lifting of the tariff, saying Ford also had decided on one administrative measure to soften the economic impact after controls end.

A Library of Congress study Thursday said repeal of the \$2 a barrel tax could save consumers 2.9 cents per gallon at the gasoline pump.

In Washington, Solicitor General Robert H. Bork announced he will appeal to the Supreme Court a lower court ruling that Ford acted illegally in imposing the \$2 tariff earlier this year.

In a statement accompanying his announcement of appeal, Bork said, "This case involves interpretation of an important federal statute, and the issues should be decided by the Supreme Court."

Ford was expected to announce formally his decisions to lift the tariff and veto the oil price control extension bill in an address Friday morning before an energy symposium.

Drought aid asked by county

By Melinda Leach
Missourian staff writer

The Boone County Emergency Board Thursday declared Boone County a disaster area and decided to apply for federal loan aid to help drought-stricken farmers.

The board acted on the recommendation of a county committee of local farmers. The committee estimated the dry spell has damaged 60 per cent of corn and grain sorghum crops, 33 per cent of soybeans, 50 per cent of pasture grass and 35 per cent of hay crops.

The board followed similar procedures last year to help combat dry weather.

"If we hadn't had the drought last year, this one would barely bother us," Ellsworth Wilcox, a committee member, said. "There's no water in the ground to pull us out of this one."

Farmers this year have been faced with increasing costs for fertilizer, machinery, seed, herbicide, insecticide and fuel. Taxes have risen, credit is tight and the hot weather has caused crop diseases to thrive.

"When a farmer invests that much capital, his losses from a drought, especially a two-year drought, are compounded several times," said George Thomas, the Boone County supervisor of the U. S. Farmers Home Administration (FHA).

A loan application must be taken by FHA, through the Boone County Court to the governor and the secretary of agriculture. The emergency board is scheduled to meet with the county court at 10 a.m. Tuesday to discuss aid to about 2,000 county farmers.

The emergency board is called into session when county farms are hurt by natural disaster. The board has one member each from the FHA, the U. S. Soil and Conservation Service, the U. S. Forestry Service, the vocational agriculture department of Hickman High School, and the U. S. Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

The last two days' rain has brightened farmers' spirits, but more is needed to improve crop problems.

"The farmers' attitudes are better because of the rain," said Don Emer, county executive director of ASCS. "But that certainly doesn't mean the pocketbooks are any fuller."

Youth rocks, rolls to new coaster mark

By our wire services

NEW YORK — With his father heading a triumphant escort, 17-year-old Michael Boodley zoomed to the finish line Thursday with a world record for roller coaster riding — 1,000 "consecutive" rides on Coney Island's stomach-grabbing "Cyclone."

Boodley, a diabetic youth from Trenton, N. J., had been riding the roller coaster since 1 p.m. Tuesday. He broke the world record of 752 kilometers (470 miles) with his father Lew aboard on his 778th ride at 12:55 a.m. Thursday.

"When we came to the top of the crest on that 778th round he held his arms above his head and just screamed with joy all the way down," the youth's father said.

Boodley established the new mark when he completed his 1,000th ride at about 9 a.m. CST, after 970 kilometers (606 miles) of drops, banks and turns. The roller coaster features a 25-meter (86-foot) first drop.

The old mark of was set in 1974 by four alternating riders at Kings Island Park in Kings Mills, Ohio, according to a spokesman for the Coney Island amusement area.

Boodley was joined by his father, friends and Dewey Albert, owner of the Cyclone, for the final ride.

Michael's father marked the occasion by pouring a cup of water over his son's head, then put his foot down on any further rides.

He said Michael was tired "wanting to go" but sighed, "I'm still and ran to go home."

Later, Michael admitted his lifelong dream was "goofy" and "didn't really have a point to it."

Boodley took a five-minute break each hour, which the spokesman said is permitted under the official rules of

roller coaster record setting. He began his journey aboard the Cyclone Monday and made it to his 47th trip before being halted by rain. He had to start over at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

The youth, who plans to attend Mercer County Community College in West Windsor Township, N.J., this fall, hopes to become an engineer. One of his planned projects will include a roller-coaster, the spokesman said.

Michael said his first plan was to get some sleep and then to go back and tell friends on his old job about his feat. His old job was working at a roller coaster at the Great Adventure park in Jackson Township, N.J.

Short pork brings beefed bacon prices

By United Press International

It's getting harder to bring home the bacon this summer. Prices of the breakfast meat have skyrocketed at butcher counters across the nation.

The reason: short pork supplies stemming from an earlier slump in the returns farmers get for their hogs — pork-on-the-hoof.

Oscar Mayer & Co., a major meat packer headquartered in Madison, Wis., said this week the company was charging distributors \$1.92 a pound for bacon — boosting the price at most store checkout counters to more than \$2 a pound.

A spokesman for George C. Hormel Co. packers of Austin, Minn., said bacon prices had risen from between \$1.29 and \$1.49 a pound a year ago to around \$2 now.

Joe Rottano, manager of San Francisco's Cal-Laurel Choice Meats and Poultry, charges \$1.99 for bulk bacon and up to \$2.59 a pound for sugar-cured bacon such as Oscar Meyer's.

"The consumer thinks the situation is very bad," he said. Most housewives have been willing to pay, but he predicted resistance will develop at some point and bacon prices will level off.

Without such built-in customer "rationing" of their own purchases, he said, stores might be out of bacon in four to six weeks.

The UPI spot check showed some resistance has developed.

"Bacon and eggs long ago were replaced by one soft-boiled egg," one Los Angeles area housewife said. "At the most, I buy bacon twice a year...."

County may oppose prison here

By Paul Dagys
Missourian staff writer

Edward Haynes, Missouri Corrections Division director, faced nearly unanimous opposition to a Boone County location for a new medium-security prison at a meeting Thursday afternoon.

Haynes told about 100 persons at the Guitart Street Community Center that Boone County is one of 14 counties being considered as possible locations for the new prison. His office also is investigating sites near St. Louis and Kansas City.

A central Missouri location could be good because of the medical and educational facilities available here, Haynes said, but no specific sites within the county have been selected.

Joe Dietz, 142 Park Lane, a resident of the Sunrise Estates subdivision near Route 2 and Interstate 70, has helped circulate a petition opposing locating the prison near the subdivision. Copies of the petition were presented to Haynes at the meeting. There is

property for sale near the Route 2 and I-70 interchange, and the area has been mentioned as a possible site.

Dietz said a prison in that area "would scare the people to death for security reasons," and that property values would go down.

Bob Brown, presiding judge of the Boone County Court, said the property at I-70 and Route 2 had not been recommended as a prison site by himself or the court. He said it only had been mentioned casually at a court meeting, and "the news media had picked up on it and made it look like we were advocating it."

State Rep. John Rollins, D-Columbia, spoke in opposition to location of a prison in Boone County. He said he believes that a central Missouri location would be in opposition to the intent of the legislators who appropriated \$7.5 million of the projected \$15 million total cost to begin construction of a new prison.

Rollins said most prisoners would be from the St. Louis or Kansas City

metropolitan areas, and it would be best for them to be located in the urban areas, because it would be easier for the prisoners' families to visit them.

Also, Rollins said, incarcerating urban prisoners in a rural area would mean that guard personnel would have trouble understanding the problems of the prisoners and that it would be hard to recruit minority employees in central Missouri.

A second major reason Rollins gave for opposing a local site is the prison's effect on the community. He said according to the sheriff's department and the prosecuting attorney's office in Randolph County, where the Moberly medium-security prison is located, the prison there creates an extra work load for their offices.

"I don't think the people of Boone County want it here," Rollins said, referring to the petitions.

The audience at the meeting seemed solidly opposed to a state prison in Boone County.

State Sen. Larry Marshall, R-

Columbia, injected a note of moderation. He said he believes the best course for the corrections system would be establishment of two new prisons, one near Kansas City and one near St. Louis.

Marshall said a proposal for a maximum-security prison at Steele was opposed unanimously by criminologists and penologists because it was "in the middle of nowhere," without facilities to aid in rehabilitation of prisoners.

Marshall added, "I'm not enamored of the idea of a prison here. . . . But I realize, when I look at the total picture, there are some sacrifices we all have to make. I think we ought to keep our options open, because I think what we're looking for is a system that will ultimately be a major force in reducing the crime rate in this state."

Haynes said that he may not return to Columbia for a formal hearing unless invited by a public official from the area. He said he hoped to recommend a site for the new prison to his superiors by the end of the year.